

Message Text

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43

ACTION SY-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-05 NEA-09 /022 W
----- 026900

P R 051035Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2114

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2525

DEPT PASS MSG BN; BEIRUT FOR RSS AND RMO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: MARINE SECURITY GUARD FOR CASABLANCA

1. SENIOR OFFICIAL IN MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT THERE NO PROBLEM HAS NOW INFORMED US WE DO NOT YET HAVE GOM CLEARANCE FOR ASSIGNMENT MARINE SECURITY GUARDS TO CONSULATE GENERAL CASABLANCA. HE SAID QUOTE SOME PEOPLE UNQUOTE HAD COMMENTED THAT SECURITY IN MOROCCO VERY GOOD AND ADEQUATE PROTECTION NOW BEING PROVIDED FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES. SENDING IN AMERICAN GUARDS WOULD BE INDICATION THAT WE NOT SATISFIED WITH PROTECTIVE MEASURES OR RELIABILITY AND WOULD BE REFLECTION ON LOCAL SECURITY AUTHORITIES. MATTER HAS NOW BEEN REFERRED TO PRIME MINISTER FOR RESOLUTION. INDICATIONS ARE THAT IT MAY BE MONTH OR MORE BEFORE DECISION IS TAKEN.

2. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES EMBASSY HAS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO REQUEST DEPARTMENT SUSPEND ASSIGNMENT MARINES TO CASABLANCA UNTIL QUESTIONS RESOLVED.

3. IN MEANTIME, ACTING UPON EARLIER VERBAL ASSURANCES FROM MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WE HAVE LEASED MSG QUARTERS AND PLACED ORDERS COMMITTING LARGE PORTION OF FUNDS ALLOTTED THIS PURPOSE.

4. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE PERIODIC STATUS REPORTS.

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Message Attributes

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